

4 Hands & 176 Keys

Friday, September 17th at 7:30 p.m.

Amarnick-Goldstein Concert Hall

Program

Concerto for Two Harpsichords in C major, BWV 1061

J.S. Bach

(1685-1750)

I. Allegro

II. Adagio ovvero largo

III. Fuga. Vivace

Sharon Villegas and Marina Machado, piano (mov.1)

Yinyu Li and Silvia Valdivia, piano (mov.2)

Sergei and Diana Skobin, piano (mov.3)

Carlos Alberto Avendaño Garcia, conductor

Sonata for Two pianos (1944)

Igor Stravinsky

(1882-1971)

I. Moderato

II. Theme with Variations

Theme

Variation I

Variation II

Variation III

Variation IV. Conclusion

III. Allegretto

Yinyu Li and Sharon Villegas, piano (mov. 1)

Marina Machado and Silvia Valdivia, piano (mov. 2)

Sergey Skobin and Diana Skobina (mov. 3)

INTERMISSION

Three Lullabies for two pianos, Op.72 (2001)

II. Andante – Allegro - Andante

Lowell Liebermann

(b.1961)

Feruzza Dadabaeva and Lisa Leonard, piano

Le Carnival des Animaux

Camille Saint- Saëns

(1835-1921)

- I. Introduction et Marche Royale du Lion (Introduction and Royal March of the Lion)
- II. Poules et Coqs (Hens and Cocks)
- III. Hemiones (Wild Asses)
- IV. Tortues (Tortoises)
- V. L' Elephant (The Elephant)
- VI. Kangourous (Kangaroos)
- VII. Aquarium
- VIII. Personnages a longues oreilles (Personages with Long Ears)
- IX. Le Coucou au fond des bois (The Cuckoo in the Depths of the Woods)
- X. Voliere (Aviary)
- XI. Pianistes (Pianists)
- XII. Fossiles (Fossils)
- XIII. Le Cygne (The Swan)
- XIV. Final

Diana Skobina and Sergei Skobin (mov.1-4)
Silvia Valdivia and Sharon Villegas (mov. 5-10)
Marina Machado and Yinyu Li (mov. 11-14)

Carlos Alberto Avendaño Garcia, conductor

Please silence or turn off all electronic devices, including
cell phones, beepers, and watch alarms.
Unauthorized recording or photography is strictly prohibited

Special Guest Artists

Carlos Alberto Avendaño Garcia, conductor
Diana Skobin, piano

Flute/Piccolo

Katherine Riley

Clarinet

Nat Farrar

Violin

Sebastian Orellana

Manuel Mendes

Moises Molina

Daniel Guevara

Viola

Elena Galentas

Gabe Galley

Cello

Devin LaMarr

Bass

Dezmond Rogers

Xylophone/percussion

Andrew Nowak

Program Notes

Of the 14 concerti by **Johann Sebastian Bach** that feature the harpsichord, the **Concerto in C major**, BWV 1061 is believed to be the only one conceived and written for the harpsichord while the others were adapted from concerti written for other instruments. Bach was inspired to explore the texture and sound of two harpsichords for his sons Wilhelm Freidmann and Carl Phillip Emanuel, both virtuosic keyboardists. The outer movements exude joy and playfulness and are accompanied by the orchestra while the middle movement is a tender solo instrumental song duet. This work belongs to the Cöthen period and was revised in 1734.

One of **Igor Stravinsky's** few piano works, his **Sonata for two pianos**, was originally conceived as a solo piano sonata but was rewritten for two pianos when Stravinsky realized that four hands were required to successfully bring out the clarity of the four contrapuntal lines. It was premiered in 1944 by Richard Johnston and Nadia Boulanger. It shows magnificently his composing process as it is known that he would use the piano to write his orchestral works. Therefore, the piano here is treated as a whole orchestra and the performers must show the variety of timbres and sonority richness. This orchestral approach to the piano has one of the consequences the use of the entire range of the keyboard. As Stravinsky is one of the most representative composers of the neo-Baroque style in 20th century, in this work we can appreciate the big influence of Bach and his approach to the treatment of voice leading and polyphony. *Prepared by Silvia Valdivia and Marina Machado.*

American composer, conductor, and pianist, **Lowell Liebermann** wrote **Three Lullabies for Two Pianos** in 2001. He was commissioned by the Murray Dranoff Two Piano Competition, one of the most prestigious competitions in world for duo piano, to compose the required competition work which was premiered by eight duo teams in Miami, Florida at the final round. It has since found its place in contemporary duo piano repertoire. The second lullaby, **Andante**, starts as a distant dream which introduces the lullaby. The middle section is contrasting in tempo, character and range emulating a nightmare which builds to a fierce climax before returning to the serene lullaby. *Prepared by Feruza Dadabaeva*

Camille Saint-Saëns composed **Carnival of the Animals** in 1886, but it was not premiered until 1922, almost 30 years after its creation. One of his most

popular works, it is written in fourteen movements that represent different animals and environments, including a lion, donkey, and elephant, as well as fossils, an aquarium, an aviary and - Saint-Saëns' little joke - pianists, possibly the most dangerous animal of them all. The music is fun to play and is appreciated by a wide variety of audiences. The texture of each movement provides contrast within the whole and snapshots of different animals are clearly presented because of wonderful effects and articulations. He thought the work detracted from his 'serious' image so only 'The Swan' was published in his lifetime, leaving one to wonder if he would be pleased at its place as a cornerstone of classical music. *Prepared by Sharon Villegas and Yinyu Li.*

Artist Biographies



A solo pianist, chamber musician, teacher and church organist, **Feruza Dadabaeva** is currently pursuing her second Professional Performance Certificate in Chamber Music at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Professor Lisa Leonard. Ms. Dadabaeva is the 2018 winner of the Lyric – Lynn Chamber Music Competition which presented her in the New York debut in May 2019 on the renowned Lyric Chamber series at the Kosciusko Foundation. In 2020 Feruza became a winner of National Society Arts and Letters Duo Competition, Florida East Coast. Feruza received the special jury prize for Best Orchestral Realization in the 2016, 2018 and 2019 Lynn Conservatory Concerto Competitions, was laureate of the 2017 Cremona International Piano Competition in Italy where she was won awards for Best Bach and Romantic period performances in addition to receiving third prize at the 2006 International Piano Competition in Salerno, Italy. Feruza began playing piano at 5 years of age at the Music Academic Lyceum for Gifted Children in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. During adolescence, Feruza received several notable accolades including the Tasano Governmental Award. Ms. Dadabaeva was accepted in 2007 at the State Conservatory of Uzbekistan where she exhibited exceptional solo and accompanying skills. Feruza received her Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from the State Conservatory of Uzbekistan in 2011, and Master of Music degree from Florida Atlantic University in 2015 under the tutelage of Dr. Irena Kofman. Feruza's achievements also include participating in the International Piano Festival at Palm Beach Atlantic University and winning the Florida Atlantic University Concerto Competition in 2014. In 2016 Ms. Dadabaeva proudly joined the Florida Atlantic University faculty as an adjunct professor of piano and was featured with the University orchestra last season performing Lutoslawski's Paganini Variations. While currently passing on the knowledge of piano playing to the next generation of students, Feruza frequently performs at a variety of venues

including Carnegie Hall, Weil Hall, NY, Stradivarius Museum in Cremona, Italy, the Miami and Boca Raton Steinway Galleries, the Florida Atlantic Theatre and Boca Raton Museum of Arts.

Pianist **Marina Machado Gonzalez** graduated with honors at the ‘Alfonso X el Sabio’ University in Madrid, Spain, in 2019. She offered her first solo concert at the "Gabriel y Galán" theater in Trujillo in October 2014 and since then she has performed in venues in Spain, Germany, and Austria, such as the Eutherpe hall in León (León, Spain), the Medina Elvira Auditorium (Atarfe, Spain), the American Institute Auditorium (Santa Fe, Spain), the Hochschule für Musik und Tanz Köln (Aachen, Germany) and the Universität Mozarteum Salzburg (Salzburgo, Austria). In 2018, she played at the opening of the 'Compositores de España' ('Composers of Spain') piano competition, performing works by the Spanish composer honored in that edition, José Luis Turina, National Music Prize winner and former artistic director of the Young National Orchestra of Spain. She was finalist in the "Ciudad de Almendralejo" Competition for young musicians from Extremadura in the 2014 edition and performed continuously in the concerts organized by the Conservatory of Music "Hermanos Berzosa" in Cáceres (Spain), in the San Francisco Auditorium, together with the orchestra of the Conservatory, in the Malinche hall of the "San Francisco" cultural complex, in the Clavellinas hall of the Caja Extremadura foundation, and at the Cáceres film library, as well as concerts at the "Juan Vázquez" Professional Music Conservatory in Badajoz and at the Almendralejo Conservatory of Music. She has also participated in the II cycle of didactic concerts "Music in Spring" held in Villanueva de la Serena in May 2014. She is a founding member of the Aidoni Piano Trio, who has in performance on many series including ‘Airas Nunes’, in Santiago de Compostela, and received classes from Richard Ireland, Rita Wagner, Andras Kemenes, Oliver Wille, Xavier Gagnepain, Benedicte Palko and Konrad von Abel. Aidoni Trio has given concerts in venues such as the Auditorium of the University of Santiago de Compostela, the Eutherpe hall in León and the “Manuel de Falla” hall in the Longoria Palace, current headquarters of the SGAE (General Society of Authors and Editors). In 2017 she won the position of titular pianist in the Youth Orchestra of the Community of Madrid (JORCAM), performing in venues like the National Auditorium of Music and the ‘Teatros del Canal’ in Madrid. In September 2020, she participated with the JORCAM in the ENSEMS festival (Contemporary Music Festival held in Valencia, Spain) offering a concert in the “Palau de les Arts”, Valencia. Ms. Machado has attended masterclasses with Ángel Sanzo, Eduardo Ponce, Sofia Hasse, Márta Gulyás, Andreas Frölich, Yuri Didenko, Ilja Scheps, Jacques Rouvier, Giuliano Mazzocante, Arkadi Zenziper, Vincenzo Balzani, Mariana Gurkova and Pavel Gililov, and has received piano performance courses with Manana Avazasvhili, Alexander Kandelaki, Iván Martín and Emmanuel Ferrer-Laloë, as well as piano technique courses with Pablo Gómez Ábalos. Until 2021 she worked as piano and music theory teacher in the High-Performance Music Center (Centro de Alto Rendimiento Musical), collaborating center of the ‘Alfonso X el Sabio’ University in

Madrid and as pianist in the 'Coro Abierto' ('Open Choir'), a choral project formed by people with intellectual disabilities interested in vocal training. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Instrumental Collaborative Piano at Lynn University, Boca Raton (USA) with Professor Lisa Leonard.

Devin LaMarr is a 20-year-old cellist currently studying at the Lynn Conservatory of Music with a full tuition scholarship as a student of David Cole. She is originally from the California Bay Area, where she studied with Jonah Kim. In 2012, Devin received first prize at the Navaroli Young Musicians competition and performed the Elgar Cello Concerto with the South Valley Symphony. More recently, in January of 2019, Devin performed in a masterclass with Philip Setzer from the Emerson String Quartet. In 2017, Devin attended Curtis Summerfest, where she received private lessons from Soo Bae, Wilhelmina Smith, and Natalie Helm. In the summer of 2019, she attended Eastern Music festival where she studied with Neal Cary and Julian Schwarz. And in the summer of 2021, she attended Online Strings Summer Institute where she studied with Paul Katz, and Hidden Valley Music Seminars where she studied with Mark Kosower.



Described as a pianist who couples a “stellar technique with penetrating musicality and power “, **Lisa Leonard** enjoys a diverse career as recitalist, soloist, chamber musician, and new music specialist. Since her debut in 1990 with the National Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Leonard has performed on four continents with a wide variety of renowned artists including Gustavo Dudamel,

Gunther Schuller, Elmar Oliveira, Reinhold Friedrich, Elizabeth von Trapp, members of the American String Quartet and Empire Brass Quintet. She is Professor of Collaborative Piano at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music where she also directs the New Music Festival. 2019 marked the inaugural season of *Trio Paradigm* with violinist Dina Kostic and cellist Susan Bergeron, formalizing a collaboration that began 15 years ago at the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival. Lisa holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and can be heard on Klavier, Centaur, and Summit labels.

Yinyu Li holds a Master of Art degree in Piano Performance from Long Island University where she earned "Outstanding Graduate Performance in Piano Studies Award" two years in a row, the "College of Arts, Music Department Award for Piano Performance," in addition to winning the LIU Post Concerto Competition, performing Ravel G major Piano Concerto with the LIU Post Orchestra in Tilles Center, New York. Ms. Li is of Chinese Korean heritage and was raised in China. When she was

young, she studied piano performance at Minzu University which is also known as the Music College of Central University of Nationalities (CUN) in Beijing for ten years where she earned her Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance. Having worked hard to gain academic and practical experience in the field, she is now pursuing the Professional Performance Certificate in Instrumental Collaborative Piano at Lynn University Conservatory of Music with Professor Lisa Leonard. Yinyu was surrounded by music from a young age with music parents that were teachers, singers, pianists and accordionists. In 2013, Yinyu came to America, obtained a green card, and married in 2017. An avid chamber music lover, she enjoys performing with other musicians in a wide variety of settings including vocal, instrumental, classical, popular, and sacred. She has maintained a private studio for years training students in NY and Boston that have won state competitions and passed piano exams with high marks.

Katie Riley's love of music originated from singing and playing piano. In 6th grade, Katie discovered the flute. In her time studying at Cincinnati Conservatory (CCM), Katie has performed with the Philharmonia, Concert Orchestra, Wind Symphony, and Chamber Winds. In a notable performance, Katie performed Debussy Afternoon of a Faun led by Cincinnati Symphony conductor Louis Langrée to a sold-out crowd. Professionally, she has played in the Hendricks Symphony Orchestra and the Queen City Chamber Orchestra. Katie spent the summer of 2019 performing as a fellow in the Round Top Festival Institute and returned for the 2021 season. Most recently, she won first place in the Rochester Flute Association Young Artist Competition. Ms. Riley finished her undergraduate studies in December 2020 graduating summa cum laude from the University of Cincinnati. Her primary teachers include Demarre McGill, Karen Moratz, and Diana Morgan. Katie is currently studying at Lynn Conservatory with Jeffrey Khaner.

Uzbek pianist, **Sergei Skobin** made his orchestral debut at age of 15 and has since appeared numerous times with various orchestras including: The National Orchestra of Uzbekistan and Lynn University Philharmonia Orchestra. Mr. Skobin performed solo recitals and concerti around the world and has repeatedly attracted positive critical reviews: "His mesmeric playing has the ability to evoke diverse palette of musical associations and very personal inner experiences," writes critic Guaric Bagdasarova; "Pianist with astonishing inner concentration," notes composer Felix Yanov-Yanovsky. In addition to performing as soloist, Sergei has been recognized as a chamber musician giving chamber music recitals with an array of esteemed artists, including conductors Vladimir Neimer, Aziz Shokhakov, Guillermo Figueroa, the soloists of Navoi Opera Theatre Rakhim Mirzakamalov and Georgy Dmitriev, soloist of Staatsoper Hanover Barno Ismatullaeva, Omnibus Ensemble and the Palm Beach Symphony Chamber Ensemble. Recognized early in his life for his music talent, Sergei was chosen to start his piano study in a prestigious Uspensky School of Music

for Gifted Children in Tashkent. He received his Master of Music and Bachelor of Music degrees at Tashkent Conservatorium of Music, where he studied with a renowned piano professor Alla Kim. “Sergei is a young artist of exceptional gifts – a brilliant pianist with great creativity,” said Kim. In 2016 Mr. Skobin continued his studies as a full scholarship student with Dr. Roberta Rust in the Professional Performance Certificate program at the LYNN Conservatory of Music, and subsequently earned a Master of Music degree from Florida Atlantic University under the tutelage of Dr. Irena Kofman. Sergei has participated in lessons and master classes with numerous concert pianists, including Jon Nakamatsu, Stanislav Ioudenitch, Denis Kozhukhin, Stephen Hough, Peter Serkin, Helen Couvert, and Paul Posnak. Sergei has won multiple awards and accolades through regional and international competitions. He is the recipient of the “Tasanno” Award for contribution to Uzbek culture in 2010, the “Best Collaborative Artist” from the “Istedod” International Competition 2016, the “Highest Level Winer” from the International Competition of Young Artists after name by A. Zhubanov 2013, The Winner of the LYNN Concerto Competition 2017, Prizewinner of the “Music & Stars Award” in Washington DC 2020, and the 2nd prize Winner of the 2nd “Sviatoslav Richter” Piano International Competition in South Korea 2020. He is currently pursuing the Professional Performance Certificate in Instrumental Collaborative Piano at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music with Professor Lisa Leonard.

Silvia Valdivia, founding member of the NazDúo with saxophonist Jorge Puma, is a Peruvian pianist. The mission of NazDúo is to premiere works from contemporary composers, sharing and supporting classical music throughout Peru. Ms. Valdivia has presented piano recitals on several series in Lima and other regions of her home country. As a soloist, she has performed with the Symphonic Orchestra of Trujillo and “*Orquestando*”, the Youth Symphonic Orchestra from the Ministry of Education of Peru. She has also been the featured pianist in “33 Variaciones” and “Inmortal,” two theatrical works nominated for the “Luces Awards”, an important Peruvian award for the arts and artists. Ms. Valdivia has received several piano and chamber music masterclasses from well-known international musicians in Peru and Brazil and has attended the Santa Catarina Music Festival (FEMUSC). Pedagogy is an integral part of her passion and dedication to music. Her commitment to piano pedagogy is demonstrated by the founding of “Cierta Concierto”, a cycle of educational concerts aimed at disseminating classical music. Furthermore, she has attended seminars and courses in music education and has diplomas from the Suzuki Association of Peru and the Latin American Music Education Forum that certify her as a piano teacher. Using the skills learned there, Ms. Valdivia gave masterclasses at the First Piano Festival “Pequeño Mozart” organized in the city of Huancayo, Perú. Ms. Valdivia received her Bachelor’s degree in Piano Performance at the National Conservatory of Music of Perú and is currently pursuing a Master of Music degree in Instrumental Collaborative Piano at Lynn University Conservatory of Music, in Boca Raton, Florida.



Costa Rican pianist **Sharon Villegas** has appeared on important stages around the Western hemisphere with artists such as Toby Oft (Boston Symphony Orchestra), Fabrice Millischer (Paris Conservatory of Music) and Ruben Simeó (Spain). She graduated with honors from the University of Costa Rica in 2017 and has won awards for her work in countries including United States, Cuba,

Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Her artistic efforts led her to her participation in recordings and premieres of renowned Costa Rican composers such as Andrés Soto, Marvin Camacho, Juan Chin and Mauricio Zamora. In addition, she has dedicated a large part of her career to the exploration of other musical genres such as Latin music and jazz taking her to countries such as Mexico, Panama, Colombia, and Guatemala. Ms. Villegas is currently studying Collaborative Piano at the Lynn University Conservatory of Music under the tutelage of Lisa Leonard.



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- Jon Robertson, dean

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